



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grants support 21st Century Community Learning Centers

MADISON—Twenty-two school districts and one charter school will share \$2.5 million in federal 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) funds to provide activities that support student learning.

The 33 sites that will receive CLC funding were among a pool of 123 proposed sites competing for grants. Applicants requested \$11.7 million, showing the demand for services that far exceeds available funding. The new sites will join 147 continuing programs in sharing a total of almost \$14.4 million statewide for the 2009-10 school year.

Funded sites must provide after-school activities designed to improve student achievement, attendance, and behaviors. Many also offer before-school services as well as weekend and summer programming. In addition to academic support, a number of sites promote parent involvement in their children's education through activities such as family literacy events and parental skill development. Nearly all programs offer opportunities for academic enrichment and recreational activities.

"The program coordinators, instructional staff, and activity leaders of Wisconsin's 21st Century Community Learning Centers are partners in our efforts to close the achievement gap," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Research tells us that these programs improve student attendance, motivation, and homework completion, which boosts academic achievement."

According to the recent CLC annual performance report, grant-funded programs served more than 33,000 students annually throughout the state. The majority of participants attend program activities more than 11 hours a week. Of those who regularly attend CLC programming, teachers report that 67 percent had increased academic performance. Teachers also report that students attending CLC programs have demonstrated an increased commitment and engagement to school through improved attendance rates and fewer behavioral problems. Research also shows that well designed after-school programs help create safer neighborhoods and assist parents in caring for their children.

(more)

“Much of the success of our 21st Century Community Learning Centers depends on partnerships in local communities that provide support,” Burmaster noted. “In 2007, 698 organizations worked with schools to provide programming, staffing, volunteers, and materials for CLC student activities. This is a testament to the community investment in the development, health, and well-being of our students.”

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, funding for the 2009-10 competitive grants was awarded to community learning center applicants that serve schools with at least 40 percent or more of enrolled students qualifying for free or reduced-price school lunches, based on family income. Schools identified for improvement under federal education laws received priority for grant awards. The grants are for five years, contingent on satisfactory progress toward goals.

A list of grant awards for new 21st Century Community Learning Centers follows. Unless noted otherwise, each district is receiving funds for one center through 2009-10 grants.

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_35.pdf.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

2009-10 School Year

Adams-Friendship School District, \$75,000

Appleton Area School District, \$60,000

Bayfield School District, \$60,000

Cashton School District, \$60,000

Cornell School District, \$75,000

Elcho School District, \$60,000

Fond du Lac School District, \$75,000

Green Bay Area Public Schools (2), \$150,000

Janesville School District, \$60,000

Kenosha School District, \$75,000

La Crosse School District (2), \$135,000

Manitowoc Public School District, \$60,000

Mellen School District, \$60,000

Milwaukee Public Schools (8), \$800,000

Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District, \$60,000

Oshkosh Area School District, 60,000

Reedsburg School District, \$60,000

Rhineland School District, \$60,000

Tri-County Area School District, \$60,000

United Community Center, Milwaukee (2), \$160,000

Wausau School District, \$75,000

Wautoma Area School District, \$75,000

West Allis - West Milwaukee School District, \$60,000